

# notes

A Publication for the Residents of Phoenix

April 2004

## Tasers help reduce police shootings

Shootings by police in Phoenix dropped to a 13-year low last year, and city officials credit the use of Taser weapons for the improvement.

Officers were involved in 13 shootings last year compared to 28 the previous year, a decline of 54 percent. Fatal shootings also were off sharply, dropping 31 percent to nine from 13.

It was the lowest number of police-involved shootings in the city since 1990.

At the same time police shootings declined, the use of Tasers, popularly called "stun guns," jumped 139 percent to 354 from 148 a year earlier.

Phoenix police last year became the first major municipal police department in the country to equip all of its officers with Tasers, which fire tiny electrical charged barbs that can temporarily immobilize a suspect long enough for officers to take control.

"We are committed to providing our officers with the latest technology, support and equipment that they need in order to protect them and our community," noted Mayor Phil Gordon.

Councilman Dave Siebert, chairman of the council's Public Safety Subcommittee, added, "Obviously, Tasers have helped them do exactly that, and the numbers prove it."

The use of Tasers was recommended by a committee formed two years ago by the Police Department. The committee reported favorable test results of the weapons and said they likely would result in fewer injuries to police officers and suspects.

Police currently are upgrading to a second generation Taser that officers will be required to carry.



### Water report out next month

Be sure to check out the city's annual Water Quality Report that will be included with your May municipal services bill.

*Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Matt Mantei awards a Head Start student with a medal for participating in the recent fifth annual Spring Training for Preschool Special Athletes at Margaret T. Hance Park. The event drew more than 500 children from 15 city Head Start programs. In addition to the Diamondbacks, the Arizona State University baseball team and the Major League Baseball Alumni Association took part.*



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## Surplus goods on auction block

Surplus materials ranging from furniture to cars will be sold at an auction Saturday, May 15.

Gates to the city auction yard, 2820 S. 22nd Ave., south of Lower Buckeye Road, will open at 6:30 a.m. and the sale will begin at 8 a.m. The cashier will remain open until 1:30 p.m. and the gates will close at 3 p.m.

Inspection of the items that will be auctioned will be allowed at the yard from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, May 13, and Friday, May 14.

For more information, call 602-534-0828.

## BOPA events planned for May, June

Phoenix residents can dispose of household hazardous waste and other items at BOPA collections 8 a.m. to

2 p.m. May 13 - 15 at Desert West Park, 6602 W. Encanto Blvd., and 7 a.m. to noon June 10 - 12 at Hermoso Park, 2030 E. Southern Ave.

In addition to batteries, oil, paint and antifreeze, the event will accept five road tires per resident, computers and household appliances, including refrigerators, stoves, evaporative coolers, air conditioners, washers, dryers and water heaters.

Commercial loads will not be accepted.

The city also will pick up household appliances and computers at your home for a \$10 fee. Call for a collection appointment. For information, call 602-262-7251, send e-mail to [pwserve@phoenix.gov](mailto:pwserve@phoenix.gov) or visit [phoenix.gov/GARBAGE](http://phoenix.gov/GARBAGE).



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## Swimmers can take to the water May 1

If you're getting anxious for the summer swim season to begin in Phoenix, the wait is almost over.

The city's 29 public pools will open noon to 8 p.m. weekends beginning Saturday, May 1, and noon to 8 p.m. on Memorial Day.

Regional pools – there are 15 of them – will be open 3 to 7 p.m. May 24 through May 28 and noon to 7 p.m. June 1 through June 4. All of the pools then will begin regular daily hours of noon to 8 p.m. on June 5 and continue through Aug. 15.

The Aquatic Section of the Parks and Recreation Department will kick off the season with the Fiesta Del Agua Water Safety Event at Starlight Pool, 7810 West Osborn Road, from noon to 4 p.m. May 1. The free event will feature CPR demonstrations, games and water safety information.

This season also marks the opening of the city's newest pool – Pecos Pool, 17010 S. 48th St., in Ahwatukee. It features a zero depth area for small children, two slides, three water play

features, a 25 meter lap pool and a separate dive well.

Registration for swim lessons begins Saturday, May 15, at all 29 pools and registration for team activities begins May 22. Registration for the free CIGNA summer water safety program begins May 1.

For more information, call 602-534 SWIM (7946) or visit [phoenix.gov](http://phoenix.gov)



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## Cool off at a city pool

### Pool names and locations:

Alkire - 1617 W. Papago St.  
Cactus\* - 3801 W. Cactus Road  
Cielito - 4551 N. 35th Ave.  
Coronado - 1717 N. 12th St.  
Cortez - 3434 W. Dunlap Ave.  
Deer Valley\* - 19400 N. 19th Ave.  
Eastlake\* - 1548 E. Jefferson St.  
El Prado\* - 6428 S. 19th Ave.  
Encanto\* - 2125 N. 15th Ave.  
Falcon - 3420 W. Roosevelt St.  
Grant - 714 S. Second Ave.  
Harmon\* - 1239 S. Fifth Ave.

Hermoso - 5749 S. 20th St.  
Holiday - 4530 N. 67th Ave.  
Madison\* - 1440 E. Glenrosa Ave.  
Marivue\* - 5625 W. Osborn Road  
Maryvale - 4444 N. 51st Ave.  
Mountain View - 1104 E. Grovers Ave.  
Paradise Valley\* - 17648 N. 40th St.  
Pecos Pool - 17010 S. 48th St.  
Perry - 3131 E. Windsor Ave.  
Pierce\* - 2150 N. 46th St.  
Roadrunner\* - 3502 E. Cactus Road  
Roosevelt\* - 6246 S. Seventh St.  
Starlight\* - 7810 W. Osborn Road

Sunnyslope - 301 W. Dunlap Ave.  
Telephone Pioneer\* -

1946 W. Morningside Drive  
University - 1102 W. Van Buren St.  
Washington\* - 6655 N. 23rd Ave.

\*regional pool

## PHX 11 offers program updates

If you're interested in keeping up with programming on PHX 11, the city's cable television channel, here's an easy way to do so.

Sign up for a special listserve on the Internet and you will receive weekly programming updates. You can join in by going to [phoenix.gov/11](http://phoenix.gov/11) and choosing the "program updates" link.

Also, while you're on the PHX 11 Web page, take the time to complete a short survey regarding the station and its programming.



## City targets neighborhood brush, debris

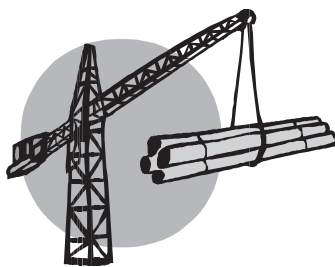
The Fire, Public Works and Neighborhood Services departments are teaming up again in an effort to reduce the number of brush and debris fires in neighborhoods.

Firefighters are surveying neighborhoods for brush and debris fire hazards and forwarding the location of possible violations to the Public Works and Neighborhood Services departments for city code compliance.

The city requires that lots, properties, alleys and easements be kept free from litter, garbage, overgrown vegetation, dead trees, brush, weeds and any other condition that presents a health, fire or safety hazard.

## Civic Plaza expansion under way

Construction has begun on the \$600 million Phoenix Civic Plaza expansion.



A cooperative effort between the city and state, the expansion will position Phoenix as a top destination for 85 percent of all conventions when completed in 2009.

The expansion will add approximately 900,000 square feet of rentable space to the facility, boosting its total size to more than 2 million square feet.

Construction will be completed in three phases, with a new west building on the Symphony Terrace opening in 2005, a new north building in 2008 and a renovated south building in 2009.

Don't forget to plan ahead when visiting the area surrounding the Civic Plaza because of possible lane restrictions due to the construction.

For more information or to sign up for quarterly updates, visit [phoenixconventioncenter.com](http://phoenixconventioncenter.com).

## Disposal facilities weekend summer hours

The weekend summer hours for the Skunk Creek Landfill and 27th Avenue Transfer Station are 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. from May 1 through Sept. 26. Weekday hours remain unchanged: 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The transfer station is closed on Sundays. For disposal facility information, call 602-262-7251.

## Head Start opens enrollment

Phoenix, Maricopa County and Southwest Human Development Head Start programs are recruiting children for the 2004-2005 school year.

Families must meet federal income guidelines for family size, and children must be 3 or 4 before Sept. 1 to be eligible. Parents of children with special needs are encouraged to apply.

The 152 sites throughout the county offer individualized teaching, nutritious meals, health screenings and a safe, stimulating environment.



Some sites also provide full-day, full-year childcare services for working families.

Services for pregnant women or low-income families with infants or toddlers are offered through the Early Head Start program.

For more information on how to apply, call 480-464-9669 in the east Valley, 623-486-9868 in the west Valley and 602-262-4040 or 602-266-5976 Phoenix.

# Brownfields conference May 13 - 14

Developers, builders, land owners and others will have an opportunity to learn about developing environmentally contaminated properties known as brownfields at a two-day conference next month.

The program, hosted by the city, will include discussions on brownfields redevelopment in Phoenix, Tempe, Glendale, Cave Creek, Tucson, Gila River Indian Community and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

The conference, sponsored by the Phoenix Brownfields Land Recycling Program, will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 13 and 14 at Phoenix Civic Plaza, Third and Washington streets.

The registration fee is \$80 for the private sector, \$65 for government and nonprofit organizations and \$25 for students and neighborhood representatives. There are a limited number of scholarships available for students and neighborhood representatives.

For more information, call 602-256-3452 or visit [phoenix.gov/ENVPGM/brownfld.html](http://phoenix.gov/ENVPGM/brownfld.html).

# Sex offenders identified to neighbors

Are you concerned about possible sex offenders living in your neighborhood?



State law requires police to notify residents, schools and day-care centers whenever a convicted sex offender who authorities consider a high risk moves into their neighborhood.

In Phoenix, the notification is done by fliers that are distributed to homes within a two-block area of the offender's residence and a one-mile area of schools and day-care centers. The fliers contain a photograph and address of the individual as well as a summary of the offender's criminal background and current status.

Information about the offenders and where they live also is available on the Internet by visiting [www.azsexoffender.org](http://www.azsexoffender.org) and clicking on search. The search can be done by name, address or zip code.

For additional information, contact the Police Department's sex offender notification squad at 602-534-2121.

# Matthew Henson demolition begins

The demolition phase of the Matthew Henson housing complex at Seventh Avenue and Buckeye Road gets under way this month.

And the timing could not be better.

April is the month the African-American explorer Matthew Henson co-discovered the North Pole in 1909.

The 64-year-old housing complex is being redone under a \$35 million federal HOPE VI Project grant that the city received in 2001. In addition to providing modern housing for residents, the revitalizing project is expected to attract new retail and commercial developments to the area.

To learn more about the project, call 602-534-3561.

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Tom Simplot, District 4	602-262-7447
Claude Mattox, District 5	602-262-7446
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For alternate format/reasonable accommodations, call 602-262-7176 or 602-534-5500/TTY.



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